Amendments to the Specification:

Page 1, after the title, insert the following headings and paragraphs:

--RELATED APPLICATIONS:

This is a U.S. national stage of International Application No. PCT/DE03/000092 filed on 14 January 2003.

This patent application claims the priority of German patent application No. 102 11 036.0 filed 13 March 2002, the disclosure of which is hereby incorporated by reference.

FIELD OF THE INVENTION--.

Page 1, before line 9, insert the following heading:

--BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION--.

Page 2, before line 10, insert the following heading:

--SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION--.

Page 2, revise the paragraph beginning at line 10 as follows:

~~The invention is therefore based on the~~ One object of ~~demonstrating~~ of the invention is to provide a simple access protection system for computers which avoids the input of a password.

Page 2, delete the paragraph beginning at line 14 in its entirety, and insert the following new paragraph:

--This and other objects are attained in accordance with one aspect of the present invention directed to a method for providing access to a computer by an access protection system, comprising connecting to the computer a transportable storage medium which electronically stores an individual identifier, and enabling access only if the computer recognizes the individual identifier.--

Page 3, revise the paragraph bridging pages 2 and 3 as follows:

The [applicant's] assignee's known Flash memory called Memory Bird is a compact transportable storage medium containing approximately 32 to 128 MB, which is intended for the end user. This product has an individual serial number which is ~~defined in hardwired form and in a manner linked to the hardware in the product~~ unique for every individual Memory Bird. The individual serial number can be read by a computer to which this device is attached in accordance with a command through which the computer operates under "American National Standard X3.221:AT Attachment Interface for Disk Drives".

Page 3, revise the paragraph beginning at line 10 as follows:

The invention takes advantage of the fact that all transportable storage media have an individual serial number or an individual identifier which can be stored in the computer. As part of a setup procedure, for example, a software tool would read the individual identifier from the storage medium and would add it to a list of acceptable identifiers. Such a software tool is well within the capability of one with ordinary skill in the art, so details thereof are not deemed necessary. When a transportable storage medium is now connected to the computer, the

computer attempts, provided that it was turned off, to recognize the storage medium connected to the interface during the boot process (e.g. plug and play), and by ~~adjusting~~ determining whether or not the serial number or the individual identifier is stored it is possible to stop the boot process or, if the serial number or the identifier is stored, the boot process is continued and hence access to the computer is permitted. The functionality of controlling the computer to look for an identifier is also well within the capability of a person with ordinary skill in the art and, thus, no details thereof are deemed necessary.

Page 4, revise the paragraph beginning at line 10 as follows:

Similarly, it is naturally also possible to use any other interfaces to the computer, such as parallel or serial interfaces, for connecting a transportable mass memory which is used simultaneously as an access key for the PC, provided that the computer ~~requests~~ has access to the individual identifier for the transportable mass memory at these interfaces.

Page 4, insert after the last paragraph the following:

--The scope of protection of the invention is not limited to the examples given hereinabove. The invention is embodied in each novel character and each combination of characteristics, which includes every combination of any features which are stated in the claims, even if this combination of features is not explicitly stated in the claims.--

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